Steeple Keeper’s Report, October 2019:

**Summary:**  As last year, the condition of the bells is: fine. There are no urgent problems. Also, we had an AGM.

That being said, there are several issues that need to be addressed, none of them urgently. The most immediate is looking into ordering a couple of new ropes (inc. a new tenor rope), and as such, revisiting the question of whether it makes sense to get ropes with synthetic tops.

**Done this year:**

We had an **AGM**. Rather to my surprise, nothing broke, except for a box that Danielle was kind enough to put back together, and the door, which some idiot had accidentally ripped partway off its hinges a week or so before, and which finally succumbed, though not til the week AFTER the AGM.

The clapper fell off the #5 in **January**; we put the old one back on as a temporary measure, then Jeff Del Papa was kind enough to re-drill out the Staple, which had got damaged in the process, and we re-installed the thing, this time with added Loctite. Thanks Matt Austin and kids for assisting in reinstallation.

In **March** Austin, Ricky and I inspected the clapper on the tenor: it looks like the bushing *may* be off center, but we’re not sure, and we’d have to take the whole business apart to find out. Oiled it and the #7.

At some other point, Ricky and I oiled the #6.

I think at some point we put a little more work into cleaning up the bell chamber. We certainly held a couple of ringing room cleaning sessions, notably just before the AGM.

Also, at some point this summer I figured out that I run the cord for one of the shop lights along the ceiling up there, so we it’s now (slightly) better illuminated.

Bought and installed an air conditioner (in **July)**

A matter of some concern: Despite the fact that we bought and installed four new **ropes** last year, at least five different ropes broke or were removed/repaired before they did; some of them required long-splicing. Thanks to non-Ringer April Grant and to Kat, Austin, Ricky, Bryn, Greg Russell, and probably other people whom I’ve forgotten about for assisting in splicing them and/or doing the whole job on their own.

Thanks to everyone – which, as you will have gathered, is quite a lot of you! – who helped with steeple keeping!

**On my list from last year:**

- See if gudgeon of #5 actually needs repairs: ***I don’t think so*.**

- Check why #5 making weird juddering noise. (Adjust twiddle pins? Gudgeon?) ***Still need to do that.***

- Clean excess oil off frame of #5. ***Did that.***

- Get new slider cut to size; Sand; Adjust to correct deep-set-nes; Install it on the #5. ***I don’t think it’s going to fit the #5. Make a new one, and see if this one will fit Old North?***

- Make new slider for the #2

- Finish cleaning bell chamber, and/or Organize bell chamber cleaning party. ***We did that, but should probably do that again.***

**New business: Short term:**

- Talk the church into fixing the door.

- Talk to church (or Eddie) about getting another 3 ropes

- Try to get a regular schedule of inspecting the ropes, stays etc. for signs of wear. We’ve been doing this about once a month, but in a pretty haphazard way.

- We should probably at least revisit the question of whether to get ropes with synthetic tops. Advantage: don’t break at the garter hole like the ones we have now keep doing. Disadvantages: less traditional, more expensive; would still have to replace them periodically when the tail ends break off too near the sally to splice a new one on.

**Longer term:**

- Work out guidelines for when we open additional trapdoors to allow the bells to be more audible *(Easter, July 4, any time we’re tolling, others?)*

- Look into reinforcing possibly split ends of sliders 3, 4, and 7 (wood-glue the split; put wood screws in both sides)

- Fix hinge on trapdoor over the #2

- The Church is probably going to do a capitol campaign after they finish hiring a new rector. At that point, Eddie would really like to get another two bells: we should consider how desirable this is, and we should also definitely try to get them to do some work on the stairs (creaky) and the library roof (leaky), both of which are likely to get worse if not attended to.

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Steeple Keeper’s Report, November 2018:

**Summary:**  As last year, the condition of the bel

**Things wot I have done:**

(Learned splicing)

Spliced the 4 and the treble

Put new rope on #3

Put new (old) clapper on #5

Ricky got us a shop vac.; I got a new filter for it, and

Started the messy process of cleaning the bell chamber

Made a new slider (still rough and needs to be cut to size)

Got a couple of portable mini-shoplights

**Things wot still need to be done:**

- See if gudgeon of #5 actually needs repairs; if so, do them.

- Check why #5 making weird juddering noise. (Adjust twiddle pins? Gudgeon?)

- Clean excess oil off frame of #5

- Get new slider cut to size; Sand; Adjust to correct deep-set-ness

- Install it on the #5

- Get reimbursed for associated costs

- Make new slider for the #2

- Shorten rope on #3 (?)

- Oil #6 - Ricky? Two-person, afternoon job, anyway

- Make (smaller) slider for #2

- Finish cleaning bell chamber, and/or Organize bell chamber cleaning party

- Talk to church (or Eddie) about getting another 3 ropes

- Replace batteries on shop light #1

- Figure out better lighting for bell chamber (Hang existing shop lights from ceiling on E. side?